

## SENIOR COMMON EXPERIENCE PROJECTS

### January-May 2015

**What can Olympian High School students do to raise awareness about acceptance of diversity surrounding causes of immigration and immigrants, and empowering women and families to create sustainable income in their home countries on CAMPUS, in the COMMUNITY, NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY?**

- Part 1.** Students form groups of four to research what other students in the U.S. and around the world have done/are doing to **raise awareness of acceptance of diversity surrounding immigration, and empowering women and families to create sustainable income in their home countries** and **present research** of your findings about what type of student-led organizations or initiatives others have created. Present your report to the class to receive feedback from classmates. (Instructions for research follows)
- Part 2.** Groups will further brainstorm and design a **social awareness** project they want to implement at Olympian High School. Before submitting the final proposal document to the instructor, the group presents a **formal written** proposal of their project to a panel of student evaluators assigned to detect problems or flaws in the plan.
- Part 3.** Group members implement the proposal, keeping records of and documenting their work, and submitting a portfolio of their work to the instructor.
- Part 4.** The group prepares a **presentation** of their project for the **Senior Showcase**. All groups' presentations will be displayed and featured in some way at the Senior Showcase at the end of the project. All presentations will be reviewed by a panel of evaluators for purposes of selecting one of the best presentations to be featured on stage at the Senior Showcase event.

### 1. THE RESEARCH PRESENTATION

**Presentations due:** \_\_\_\_\_

The purpose of the research is to find out what has been done by students elsewhere so as to get ideas for projects that could be implemented by Olympian High School students.

**Find, distill, select, and organize** the information you've researched. Your presentation should contain **3 or more websites** containing source material that will be useful to OHS students in brainstorming and designing and implementing their own **social awareness** projects. The report should clearly demonstrate your understanding of the intended use of the research and that you have searched carefully and weeded out fluff and irrelevant sources.

Research presentation parts:

#### **Introduction:**

- Introduce the purpose
- Name the types of sources consulted
- State the logic of your organization at the beginning of the sources section: The sources below are organized as follows: best to worst or worst to best

#### **For each source:**

- Describe the source
- List only information you think is relevant
- Explain and evaluate the source in terms of relevance/usefulness for OHS students' brainstorming and designing their own awareness and/or assistance projects
- Organize the sources according to a specific logic (most important sources or most interesting first, for example)

**MLA list of works consulted (use same format as MLA Works Cited)**

**CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION: Successful research presentations will...**

- Provide an introduction that states the purpose of the research, as well as a list of sources consulted and the organizational logic of the source presentation.
- Describe each source, explaining its relevance
- Explain how OHS students can use/imitate the source's ideas/projects
- Identify the relevant information from the source
- Organize the sources according to the stated logic: best to worst or worst to best
- Be clearly written/presented in standard academic English and free of grammar and spelling errors (
- Include a typed Works Cited list in MLA format

## **2. THE FORMAL WRITTEN GROUP PROPOSAL**

**Form Groups:** \_\_\_\_\_

**First draft of Proposal due:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Proposal Presentations and feedback:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Final draft of Proposal due:** \_\_\_\_\_

In your groups, you will take your research and your peers' research as a starting point for brainstorming and designing your own project and writing **a formal proposal** for your chosen project. You will be provided with a specific outline to guide you.

Your group must prepare a typed double-spaced formal proposal that adheres to the accepted proposal format and conventions. **The goal of the proposal is to present and explain your project.** Preparing your proposal should also help you focus your project, plan your work, and allow you to receive feedback early in the process.

**Before drafting your own proposal, study some models of successful proposals.**

**CONSIDER YOUR AUDIENCE** and aim to fulfill their needs and expectations: Explicitly write out answers to the following question: To whom are you addressing the proposal and what are this audience's needs and expectations?

### **Proposal Content**

#### **I. INTRODUCTION**

Begin with a brief **introduction**, summarizing your project and explaining why you are proposing it (who and why we should care). Consider your audience and outline the rest of the proposal.

#### **II. MOTIVATION and STATEMENT OF PROBLEM**

- What is the need or problem that you want to address? Why do you want to address this particular problem?
- Why is this problem or need significant? Who should care about it, and why?

- Provide any examples or supporting evidence (real or hypothetical examples, personal experience(s), etc.) that help to show the nature, extent, or significance of the problem you've defined. Briefly review current work in this area that you know about (use the research reports as reference).

### III. PROPOSED PROJECT AND PURPOSE

- State your proposed project, its goals, and your approach.
- Why are you proposing this particular project? Why are you using approach X rather than approach Y? Briefly discuss the alternatives.
- What other, similar projects exist that you can use or have used as a guide?
- Why and how will this work meet the need or solve the problem you have previously identified?
- Anticipate and respond to any major objections one might have to this project or approach.
- How will your proposed work be of real intellectual or functional value to you as a student, to others interested in or doing similar work?

### IV. CRITERIA FOR PROPOSAL EVALUATION

#### Successful Proposals will...

- Answer the proposal questions precisely
- Clearly explain the effect of proposed project and it's connection to this year's book
- Provide a close fit with the OHS Senior Common Experience
- Be realistic in terms of the feasibility of the project and the weekly goals
- Adhere to proposal format and structure conventions
- Be clearly written in standard academic English and free of grammar and spelling errors
- Include a Works Consulted section in MLA format that references any sources you have consulted for ideas.

### 3. IMPLEMENTATION

**Contract due:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Final Project due date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Weekly Progress Reports due (Fridays):** \_\_\_\_\_

Group members will draft and sign a contract.

Each group will submit to the class a weekly work plan update (goals): what has been done and what is planned for the following week.

Each group member will document her/his work using a variety of means, materials, and resources, for example: photographs, e-mails, memos, reports, interviews, audio segments, flyer/brochure, or journal entries, some of which can later become incorporated into the final presentation.

#### 4. GROUP VISUAL PRESENTATIONS OF PROJECT FOR SENIOR SHOWCASE

**Multi-media (video) due:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Tri-fold due:** \_\_\_\_\_

##### MULTI-MEDIA VIDEO

Using the proposal as a guide, each group will create an audio visual presentation of their project and its implementation.

Presentations should:

- not exceed 5 minutes
- make effective use of technology

The specific design of the presentation depends on the project and/or product. For example, the presentation of a group that started a human rights club on campus will look, sound different, and take a different form than that of a group that created a children's book about human rights and read that book to elementary school children, as will that of a group that created a traveling photographic exhibit to raise awareness of human rights.

##### TRI-FOLD

###### Tri-fold content

Creative design on the outside of the tri-fold so as not to appear boring or drab

Left side: Group goals. Be very detailed, if necessary, provide background information.

Middle: Evidence. This can come in many forms, i.e. pictures, receipts, collage, objects used in the project, etc.

Right side: Reflection. This can be done individually or as a group.

##### Criteria for Presentation Evaluation

The visual presentation grade will be based entirely on the group work, with no separate individual component.

The group presentation grade will be based on the following criteria:

Successful visual presentations will... (This applies to both the video and the tri-fold)

- Introduce the project clearly and in a visually effective manner.
  - Document how the project was implemented.
  - Show evidence of the outcome of the project.
  - Demonstrate how the project relates to this year's chosen book
  - Suggest the importance of the project in terms of the Olympian High Senior common Experience.
  - Demonstrate an understanding of the uses and effects of visual rhetoric through technology, meaning that images and audio/visual technology are used effectively to showcase the project.
  - Include an introduction/overview and closing comments/insights.
  - Be clear and logical in structure and include smooth transitions to guide viewers.
  - Be free of grammatical and spelling errors.
  - Thoughtfully and effectively feature the work of each group member.
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## Group Evaluations

All group members are expected to collaborate and contribute equally to all aspects of the group proposal and the group presentation. Upon completion of both parts, each group member will individually evaluate the contribution of the other group members to the group project by filling out an evaluation sheet and assigning points to indicate the value of each group member's contribution. This process will be confidential and will contribute 20% towards the total grade for the group project. The Proposal and the Presentation each count 40% of the total grade.

PROPOSAL	40%
PRESENTATION	40%
PEER EVALUATION	20%